



## **Sheila Dixon**

Mayor,  
Baltimore

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mayor Dixon Announces New Traffic Calming Policies**

### *Task Force Recommends New Tools to Slow Traffic; Speed Cameras Urged Near Schools and Playgrounds*

Baltimore, MD (July 31, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon today joined a task force of community leaders and City officials to release the results of a 4-month study on ways to reduce speeding and cut-through traffic in neighborhoods. The Traffic Calming and Pedestrian-Friendliness Task Force urged that the Department of Transportation use a variety of tools to calm traffic, as well as a more defined process to respond to community requests for traffic calming.

The Task Force also recommended that automated enforcement cameras be used on City streets, especially near schools, parks and playgrounds. The use of “speed cameras” would require passage of legislation at the State level, as has been done for Montgomery County and other jurisdictions. The Task Force recommended that proceeds from automated enforcement be used for traffic safety purposes.

“This report provides new tools and new emphasis on traffic and pedestrian safety. I appreciate the Committee’s hard work and pledge that my Administration will work just as hard to implement the recommendations” said Mayor Dixon. The Mayor announced that the Department of Transportation will implement the new traffic calming guidelines for a 60-day test period beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>. Dixon also announced that \$200,000 will be dedicated to a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program in the Department’s capital budget.

Speaking on behalf of the Traffic Calming Task Force, Co-Chairman Jeffrey Ratnow said that the recommendations “strike a balance between the need to move traffic efficiently and the goal of promoting pedestrian safety. We appreciate Mayor Dixon and the Department of Transportation’s strong embrace of this report.”

The Traffic Calming and Pedestrian-Friendliness Task Force included one representative appointed by each member of the City Council, two at-large members appointed by the City Council President, and representatives from the Departments of Transportation, Planning and Police. More than a dozen meetings and working sessions were held to arrive at the Committee’s recommendations. The City Council’s Land Use and Transportation Committee is expected to hold a hearing on the report in late September.

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